Indian students killed in US

†1456. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the status of investigation of the number of Indian students who have been killed/murdered in the US in the recent months; and

(b) whether the US authorities both Federal and State are fully co-operating in these investigations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In the recent past, four incidents have taken place in the US where Indian students have died:—

(i) On 16 April 2007, 33 persons in Virginia Tech University, including an Indian student Ms. Meenal Panchal, were killed. The police investigation concluded that the assailant, who later committed suicide, has committed the crime on his own.

(ii) On December 13-14, 2007, unknown assailants murdered Chandrasekhra Reddy Komma and Kiran Kumar Allam, both Ph. D. students, in the Louisiana State University campus in Louisiana. Police investigation is still continuing. No arest has yet been made in connection with this incident.

(iii) On January 17-18, 2008, Abhijit Mahto, an Indian student was shot and killed on the outskirts of Duke University in North Carolina. Police have arrested Stephen Oates for breaking into the appartment and killing Abhijit Mahto. The investigation is continuing.

(iv) Akkaldevi Srinivas, an Indian doctor pursuing his post-graduation in Internal Medicine in Pennsylvania was found dead on March, 1, 2008. Investigations are continuing.

Our Embassy and Consulates in the USA have in each instance closely coordinated between local authorities and the families of the victims, and rendered assistance.

Political Cimate in Myanmar

1457. DR VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner Government is assessing the political climate in neighbouring Myanmar:

(b) the reasons Government not reacting to attack on the monks when they were participating in a non-violent protest;

(c) Government's official stand on Army rule in Myanmar; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi